

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A processor-based method comprising:
selecting, by a user, at least one metric from an alternative representation of a database of existing data;
invoking a mapping associated with the at least one metric to create a search query;
invoking an interpreter to execute the search query and return data related to the search query; and
displaying the data related to the search query.
2. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein selecting further comprises selecting from the alternative representation of the database wherein the alternative representation is a reduced version of the existing data.
3. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein selecting further comprises selecting a metric in a generalized model.
4. The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
generating a request based on the existing data from the request based on the at least one metric prior to the invoking; and
wherein the invoking further comprises invoking the interpreter using the request based on the at least one metric.
5. The method as defined in claim 4 wherein selecting further comprises selecting the at least one metric from the alternative representation of the database of existing data to create a generic structured query language (SQL) request based on the at least one metric.
6. The method as defined in claim 5 wherein generating further comprises generating a specialized SQL request based on the existing data from the request based on the at least one metric.

7. The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the selecting further comprises selecting at least one metric from the alternative representation of the database of existing data, the alternative representation incorporated with the existing data in the database.

8. A computer readable medium storing a program that, when executed by a processor of a computer, performs a method comprising:

- maintaining existing data;
- storing metrics related to the existing data;
- mapping the existing data to the metrics; and
- providing access to the existing data by referencing the metrics.

9. The computer readable medium as defined in claim 8 wherein mapping further comprises mapping the existing data to a set of predefined metrics.

10. The computer readable medium as defined in claim 9 wherein mapping further comprises utilizing a general mapping table to related the existing data to the predefined metrics.

11. The computer readable medium as defined in claim 8 wherein the providing further comprises generating a specific query to the existing data using the metrics.

12. A system comprising:

- a computer system having

- a central processing unit (CPU);

- a memory coupled to the CPU, the memory storing a reporting application executable by the CPU;

- a database coupled to the computer system, the database storing a previously created data set;

- wherein the database comprises an alternative representation of the previously created data and an interpreter that executes

search queries generated from mappings stored in the alternative representation.

13. The system as defined in claim 12 wherein the database is part of the computer system.

14. The system as defined in claim 12 wherein the reporting program allows a user to select at least one metric from the alternative representation of the database to create a request based on the at least one metric, and wherein an interpreter of the database modifies the request to pertain to the previously created data.

15. The system as defined in claim 14 further comprising allowing the user to select a metric in a generalized model.

16. The system as defined in claim 14 wherein the reporting program allows a user to select at least one metric from the alternative representation of the database to create structured query language (SQL) request based on the at least one metric, and wherein an interpreter of the database replaces labels of the SQL request to pertain to the previously created data.

17. The system as defined in claim 12 wherein the database comprises a reduced representation as the alternative representation.

18. A system comprising:
a computer system having
 a means for executing programs;
 a means for storing programs coupled to the means for executing,
 the means for storing a reporting application executable by
 the means for executing;
a database coupled to the computer system, the database storing a
 previously created data set;

wherein the database comprises an alternative representation of the previously created data and an interpreter that executes search queries generated from mappings stored in the alternative representation.

19. The system as defined in claim 18 wherein the reporting program allows a user to select at least one metric from the alternative representation of the database to create a request based on the at least one metric, and wherein an interpreter of the database modifies the request to pertain to the previously created data.

20. The system as defined in claim 18 further comprising allowing the user to select a metric in a generalized model.